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Dear Mr. Holland:

You will recall that during the period 1947-1953 the Bureau of Inter-American Affairs maintained one position in the category of Geographic Attaché. At the end of 1953, however, in the overall reduction-in-force activity this position was abolished.

In this period, while Mr. Arthur P. Biggs was assigned in South America as Geographic Attaché, hundreds of technical reports on mapping agencies, their programs, and personalities were received, together with thousands of maps covering political, economic and socio-political subjects related closely to intelligence work. With each succeeding month, following the elimination of the position of Geographic Attaché, the map and report totals decrease and the information held in Agency files is obsolescing.

Since the end of 1953 this Agency has considerably increased its attention to written communications, channeling hundreds of requirements through the Special Assistant for Maps, Department of State, to the various posts in your area. This has been done in recognition of a temporary inability within the Bureau to support the position of Geographic Attaché. Within the capabilities of the various posts, and with varying degrees of success, these requirements have been handled. The total result, however, has been far less than a satisfactory fulfillment of Agency needs. Professional geographers are not always available at the various posts and persons not trained in cartographic and geographic fields may not be expected to prepare technical reports on mapping organizations, photogrammetric processes, compilation and reproduction techniques, and other related activities.

In general, in other Bureaus and all areas of the world, except Central and South America, where there is no longer a Geographic Attaché, the Department of State is almost completely satisfying this Agency's needs for maps and associated materials, and cartographic reporting.

In view of this rapidly worsening situation I should like to re-emphasize, on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency, the interest

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in map procurement and reporting in the South and Central American countries. Further, I should like to strongly recommend that your office give full consideration to the request for the re-establishment of the position of Geographic Attaché which is currently being placed by the Special Assistant for Maps, Department of State.

Sincerely,

Robert Avery, Jr.
Deputy Director/Intelligence

The Honorable Henry P. Holland
Assistant Secretary for Inter-American
Affairs

Room 4029, New State Building
ONR:DY/CL [redacted]

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